

# • COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XIX

SEPTEMBER 1952

No. 9

## Death Closes Long Career of Franklin Thomas, District Director from Pasadena for 24 Years

On August 27 death closed the long and illustrious career of Director Franklin Thomas, 67. He represented Pasadena on the District's Board of Directors from the time of its organization in 1928.

Born near Red Oak, Iowa, Director Thomas joined the California Institute of Technology in 1913 as associate professor of civil engineering. In 1944 he was also appointed Dean of Students at the Institute.

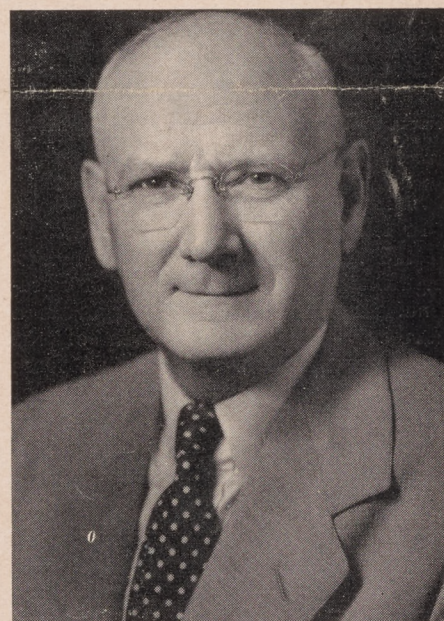
Director Thomas was in charge of the

Department of Civil Engineering at the California Institute of Technology from 1913 until his death.

He was recognized internationally as an authority on water conservation problems. In 1947 he was appointed to the Colorado River Board by Governor Earl Warren. He was made chairman of this Board in 1948.

During his lifetime numerous civic honors came to Director Thomas. In March of this year more than 1000 rep-

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FRANKLIN THOMAS



Wednesday, September 24, was designated "Colorado River Water Day" by Los Angeles County Fair officials. Above, Ben P. Griffith (left), President of the Colorado River Association, presents descriptive folders, to Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the District Board of Directors, and to Director Hugh W. Stiles. The folders were made available to the public. Mr. Stiles is also a director of the Los Angeles County Fair.

## L.A. County Fair Visitors View Huge Water Mural

An estimated 1,000,000 visitors to this year's famed Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona are expected to view the giant Colorado River water photo mural which has been installed on the entire east wall of the Agricultural Pavilion.

Covering an area 125 feet by 46 feet high the mural illustrates, by means of hand colored photo enlargements and artists' drawings, how Colorado River water is brought into Southern California to serve its homes, industries and agricultural areas.

At the apex of the mural is seen a huge photo of Hoover Dam, key structure on the Colorado River. Below the Dam on a large scroll are the words "Colorado River water . . . brought to

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**AQUEDUCT NEWS**

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## Death Closes Career

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representatives of the Southern California construction industry chose him as "Man of the Year" and honored him at a banquet in the Biltmore Bowl. He was President of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1949.

In 1939 Director Thomas was awarded the Arthur Noble Medal for Distinguished Service to the City of Pasadena. He had previously served as a member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pasadena from 1921 to 1927. He was also President of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 1927 and President of its Community Chest activities in 1928. Director Thomas was President of the Pasadena Civic Orchestra Association from 1929 to 1931.

Director Thomas is survived by his widow, Marie; two sons, William and Richard, and two daughters, Mrs. Lee R. Champion and Mrs. Donald G. Langille.

## Board Expresses Sorrow Over Director Thomas Death

Expressing their sorrow occasioned by the death on August 27 of Director Franklin Thomas, the District's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution extolling the many and outstanding public services rendered Southern California and the entire nation by this great public leader.

The resolution which set forth in detail Director Thomas' invaluable contribution to public welfare, stated, in part:

*"He was a man of the highest integrity, known internationally as an outstanding civil engineer, and throughout the community as a citizen unselfishly devoted to the public welfare. All in Southern California have suffered a great loss in his passing. With the affairs of the District we shall miss his wise counsel, his wide knowledge and broad experience, and his ever genial and harmonious personality."*



MORRIS S. JONES

## Name Morris S. Jones New District Director

Morris S. Jones, Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Pasadena Water Department, took the oath of office this month as a member of the District's Board of Directors representing the City of Pasadena.

Mr. Jones fills the vacancy on the Board created by the recent death of Franklin Thomas.

He has been Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Pasadena Water Department since August, 1935 and over the years has guided his department from a small town system to a network of 408 miles of water lines which are serving 130,000 consumers. He recently completed 39 years of service with the department.

Mr. Jones attended Pasadena High School and has a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have made their home at 1250 North Holliston Avenue for the past 28 years.

## Director Butler To Head Water Problems Committee

At the regular monthly Board of Directors meeting September 16, Warren W. Butler was named Chairman of the Water Problems and Public Relations Committee, filling the vacancy caused by the death last month of Franklin Thomas.

For the past several years Mr. Butler has served as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

## For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed September 1952, covering District operations for August 1952.)

**Colorado River** — The water level in Lake Mead dropped 4.14 feet during the month to elevation 1195.74 feet. This level was 28.74 feet higher than on August 31, 1951. The usable storage on August 31 was 23,350,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 596,000 acre-feet for the month. The discharge at Hoover Dam averaged 21,100 cubic feet per second compared with 21,300 in July. At Lake Havasu the water level varied between a maximum at elevation 449.1 feet and a minimum of 447.6 feet. The discharge at Parker Dam averaged 20,500 cfs.

**Power and Pumping Systems** — Pumping at Hayfield, using one unit, was continuous with the exception of a 16-minute interruption on August 14 due to an outage on the District power system believed due to lightning. The District, Southern California Edison, and Parker power systems were operated in parallel throughout the month except for the outage as noted. Peak delivery to the Edison Company was 139,700 kw and to the Parker system 14,000 kw.

**Distribution System** — Storage in San Jacinto reservoir on August 31 was 1,117 acre-feet, with water level at elevation 1499.6 feet. Diversion to the San Diego aqueduct totalled 634.6 acre-feet. Storage at Lake Mathews at the month end was 81,686 acre-feet, with water level at elevation 1345.4 feet, a decrease in August of 8,616 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from an average natural hardness of 304 ppm to 125 ppm at an average rate of 228.5 cfs. The total volume of water softened in August was 14,191 acre-feet.

**Construction** — J. E. Haddock, Ltd. virtually completed the restoration of surface improvements at the Ramona freeway crossing of the Garvey-Ascot pipe line. United Concrete Pipe Corporation and Ralph A. Bell completed all work on the Santa Ana freeway crossing of the middle feeder on August 21. Contract for construction of the Garvey-Ascot cross feeder has been assigned to Ukropina-Polich-Kral and Steve Rados, Inc.

**Purchasing** — The purchasing division issued 235 purchase orders in August approximating \$29,300.





Work on the Cajalco tunnel, a new link in the District's lower feeder system to serve Orange County area, was under way this month. Above, left to right, General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer checks blueprints with William McCleary, the District's Superintendent of Aqueduct Maintenance; Hank Ewert, Superintendent of the construction job for the contractor, the Shea Company; and Tom Cain, Division Foreman for the District.

## Report Reveals District's \$52,000,000 Expansion Program Moving Steadily Ahead

September found field and office engineering work steadily progressing in the task of pushing forward the expansion of the District's distribution facilities to meet an ever-increasing need for Colorado River water. Several features of this expansion program that are now in progress or being planned include five pipe line sections and the new Garvey reservoir in Los Angeles County. This work, it is estimated by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, will call for an investment of about \$17,000,000.

On October 8 contractor bids are to be opened for the building of the Garvey reservoir, including pipe lines within the reservoir site. This reservoir will be located about one mile south of Garvey Avenue and one mile east of Atlantic Boulevard, in the southerly rolling hills section of the Monterey Park area.

The reservoir will have a capacity of 1500 acre-feet and will occupy, together with its earthfill embankment, about 100 acres. It will be situated on a 190-acre site that has been acquired by the District.

The manufacture of reinforced concrete pipe sections 60 inches in diameter is going forward to meet the requirements of a 6-mile pipe line that will ex-

tend from the Garvey reservoir to the Eagle Rock-Palos Verdes feeder at Ascot reservoir. A contract for this work in the amount of \$2,069,130 was awarded to United Concrete Pipe Corporation last May.

The District also is preparing to advertise for bids for a 4-mile long, 45" pipe line that will extend from Victoria Street to 223rd Street near Long Beach.

Engineering design work is now under way for a 17-mile pipe line that will be 72" in diameter and will extend south from the Garvey reservoir to Victoria Street, near the northerly limits of Long Beach.

Another portion of the District's distributing line extension program on which engineering work will be started soon is a 5-mile lateral that will connect the line between Garvey reservoir and Victoria Street to the Palos Verdes feeder in the vicinity of Century Boulevard. This line is scheduled to be 60" in diameter.

Including the \$17,000,000 in aqueduct construction work that is to go forward in Los Angeles County, the District's plans call for an investment of a total of \$52,000,000 during the next few years in an expansion program on new distribution facilities and on the main line of the aqueduct.

## Directors Request Governor To Fill River Board Vacancy

In a request made in September by the District's Board of Directors, Governor Earl Warren was asked to appoint either Chairman Joseph Jensen of Los Angeles or Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler of Compton to fill the vacancy on the Colorado River Board of California recently caused by the death of Franklin Thomas.

The Colorado River Board is composed of six members, one from each of the California public agencies having water or power contracts on the Colorado River and it is charged with safeguarding and protecting the Colorado River water rights of California citizens.

Chairman Jensen has been a member of the District Board for ten years, while Vice Chairman Butler has served on the Board since 1935.

## Dominguez Area Votes West Basin Annexation

In a special election held September 23, residents in the Dominguez area approved annexation to the West Basin Municipal Water District and became eligible to receive a supply of Colorado River water.

The vote was 655 yes votes against 400 voting no. The area, which is annexing to the West Basin District, includes territory running north from the Los Angeles city boundary line at Lomita Boulevard to Rosecrans Boulevard and east from the Los Angeles River to the shoestring strip of Los Angeles city. Two smaller parcels also are within the annexing area.

The Dominguez areas have an assessed value of approximately \$44,000,000.

## Huge Water Mural

(Continued from Page One)

California and paid for by the people it serves."

Other focal points of interest in the mural are huge aerial enlargements of Parker Dam, which backs up the river to form Lake Havasu, on which the District's Intake Pumping Plant is located, and Imperial Dam which diverts Colorado River water to the rich agricultural areas of Imperial and Coachella Valleys.

It was conceived and sponsored by the Colorado River Association in cooperation with Los Angeles County Fair officials.



# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Rudy Fernandez, Engineering Aide and single, startled everyone in the District office recently when he passed out cigars announcing the arrival of a baby boy. Fact is Rudy is mighty happy over the arrival of a little brother.

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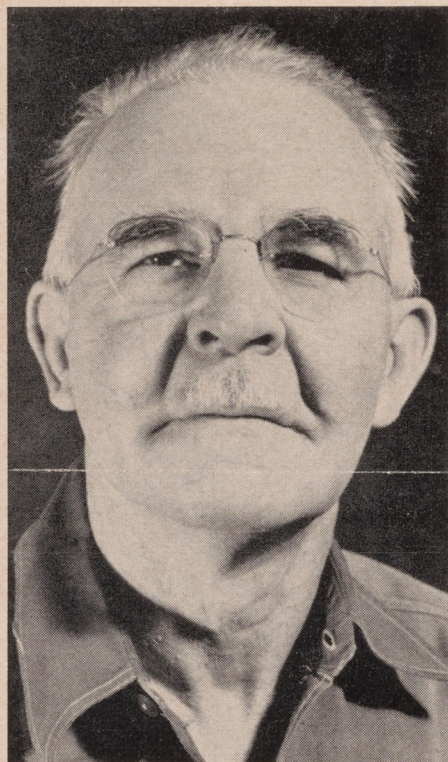
Congratulations to Glen Smith, Junior Engineer, who was married September 18 in the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City. Glen and his bride spent their honeymoon at Lake Tahoe.

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Homer R. Campbell, Foreman at Gene Village, and his wife are back home after touring Colorado and New Mexico on their vacation.

\* \* \* \*

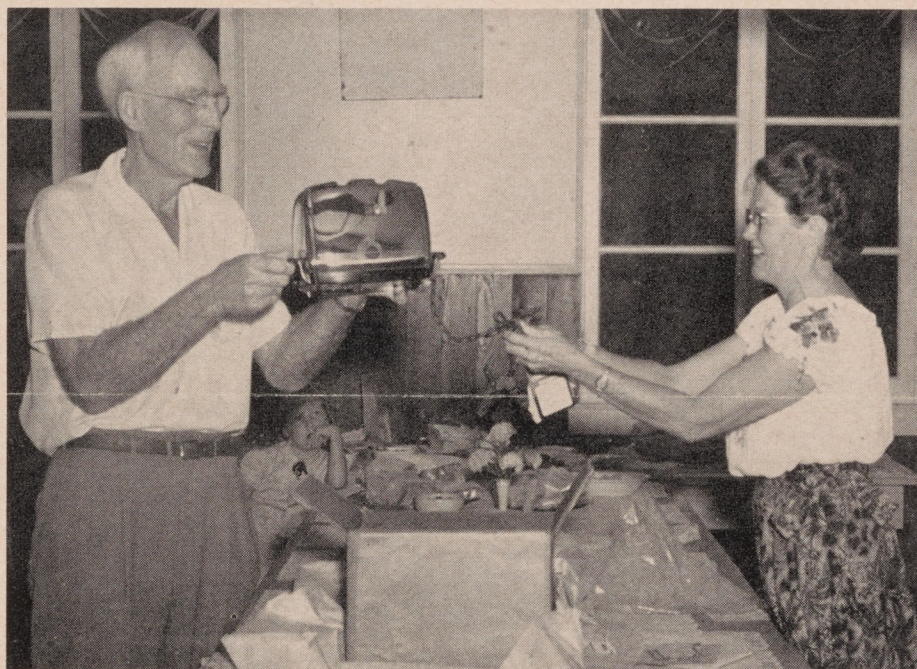
Ora Guy (Pop) Morris, who holds the respect and affection of his fellow workers, retired last August after being em-



ORA G. MORRIS

ployed by the District for the past 17 years.

"Pop" first started with the District during Aqueduct construction days in July 1935 as a mechanic in the Berdoo camp. In October of 1937 he transferred to Gene Village where for the past 10 years he has been Master Mechanic.



Clyde E. Taylor, Station Electrician at Iron Mountain Village, and his wife, Grace, admire a toaster which was presented to him by his fellow workers on the occasion of his retirement from the District this month. He has been with the District since 1943.

Clyde E. Taylor, Station Electrician at Iron Mountain Village since June 1943, retires this month after nine years with the District.

Clyde started with the District March 8, 1943 as a Pumping Plant Operator at Gene Village. In September of that year he transferred to Iron Mountain Village as a Station Electrician.

The best wishes of all his co-workers go with Clyde and his wife, Grace. They will remain on the desert they know so well for they are planning to operate a motel they recently completed at Vidal Junction, approximately 40 miles from Iron Mountain Village.

\* \* \* \*

District employees this month were in receipt of a pat on the back from General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer for the enviable safety record they established during the months of June, July and August. Records show that there were no lost-time injuries reported during this three-month period.

General Manager Diemer, in commending all employees, said that the safety record was made despite a considerable increase in the number of employees added to the payroll.

He urged all employees to keep the record intact, reminding them that "safety pays off in health and happiness."

Nimrod James Blankley, Maintenance Mechanic, has solved the meat problem for his family. He recently bagged a buck but refuses to disclose the location.

\* \* \* \*

It's a boy for Louis Mejia, employed at the Softening and Filtration plant. The baby's name is Lawrence, and he arrived September 28 weighing 7 pounds 2 ounces. His grandfather is Pedro Ortega stationed at Gene Village.

\* \* \* \*

Louis Chazaro, in charge of the blueprint department, wins the prize for driving the most miles on his vacation. He made a round trip to Vera Cruz, Mexico to visit relatives . . . a distance slightly more than 5,000 miles.

\* \* \* \*

John Keigan, Junior Engineer, was watching television the other night when he heard a loud crash. Upon investigation he found that his new Buick had rolled down the driveway across the street into a Palm tree . . . repair bill \$186.00.

\* \* \* \*

Ruth Thiers, Senior Secretary, spent her vacation in and around Mexico City and enthusiastically reports that she had a marvelous time.